



PARTNERING TOGETHER



(A publication of Special Health Care Needs-Family Partnership)

Southern Missouri

Winter 2006

Family-Centered Care...What is it?

Earlier this fall, the Federal Government's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs issued its definition and principles. If your health care practice is not practicing Family-Centered Care, I encourage you to review the definition and principles with your healthcare provider and partner with them to promote this positive environment.

Definition of Family-Centered Care

"Family-Centered Care assures the health and well-being of children and their families through a respectful family-professional partnership. It honors the strengths, cultures, traditions and expertise that everyone brings to this relationship. Family-Centered Care is the standard of practice which results in high quality services."

Principles of Family-Centered Care for Children

The foundation of family-centered care is the partnership between families and professionals. Key to this partnership is the following principles:

- ♥ Families and professionals work together in the best interest of the child and the family. As the child grows, s/he assumes a partnership role.
- ♥ Everyone respects the skills and expertise brought to the relationship.
- ♥ Trust is acknowledged as fundamental.
- ♥ Communication and information sharing are open and objective.
- ♥ Participants make decisions together.
- ♥ There is a willingness to negotiate.

Based on this partnership, family-centered care:

1. Acknowledges the family as the constant in a child's life.
2. Builds on family strengths.
3. Supports the child in learning about and participating in his/her care and decision-making.
4. Honors cultural diversity and family traditions.
5. Recognizes the importance of community-based services.
6. Promotes and individual and developmental approach.
7. Encourages family-to-family and peer support.
8. Supports youth as they transition to adulthood.
9. Develops policies, practices, and systems that are family-friendly and family-centered in all settings.
10. Celebrates successes.

Check out the new exclusive listserv for Missouri families of children with special needs participating in the Family Partnership program

To subscribe, send an email to:

MO-FP-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Statewide Retreat a success!

On November 4th & 5th we had 90+ parents, grandparents and caregivers attend our annual retreat in Columbia. Friday evening was spent playing Family Partnership Jeopardy. Not only did participants have fun, they were also able to learn about various agencies and resources. On Saturday our keynote presenter, Dr. James Meyer presented on relationships, stress and money, and how to find balance. Following Dr. Meyer, we had presentations from the School Nurse Association, and Doris Weber presented on Life Care Planning to wrap up the day. Not only did participants gain useful information during the sessions, they also had the opportunity to visit with numerous exhibitors throughout the day.



Southern region participants at the Annual Parent/Caregiver Retreat held Nov 4-5 in Columbia

As a kid I had a hard time reading in school. I was the kid who would go one period a day to the class for kids with learning disabilities.

~ Vince Vaughn, Actor

Healthy New Year's Resolutions for Kids Preschoolers

- ♥ I will clean up my toys.
- ♥ I will brush my teeth twice a day, wash my hands after going to the bathroom and before eating, and clean up my messes right away.
- ♥ I won't tease the family dog or even a friendly dog, and I will avoid being bitten by keeping my fingers and face away from his/her mouth.

School Age Kids

- ♥ I will try to find a sport (like basketball or soccer) or an activity (like jumping rope, dancing, or riding my bike) that I like and do it at least 3 times per week.
- ♥ I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car. I'll use a booster seat until I can correctly use a lap/shoulder seat belt.
- ♥ I'll be nice other kids. It's easier and more fun than being mean, and I'll feel better about myself.
- ♥ I will always wear protective gear – especially a helmet – when cycling, scooting, or blading.
- ♥ I'll never give out personal information such as my name, address, school or phone number in an Internet chat room or an Internet bulletin board. Also, I'll never send a picture of myself to someone I chat with or without my parent's permission.

Teens

- ♥ I will wipe negative self-talk (i.e. "I can't do it") out of my vocabulary.
- ♥ I will resist peer pressure to try drugs and alcohol.

Tips provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics

Visit www.aap.org for more health information.

Your Family Partner:

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Check out our **NEW** Website!

www.dhss.mo.gov/FamilyPartnership/

The newly revised Family Resource Manuals are out! If you do not have one, contact your SHCN Service Coordinator or Carla to get yours! These manuals, created by the DHSS Special Health Care Needs unit, are full of resources for your child with special needs and family!

*Watch your mailbox
for the spring
regional meeting
dates!*

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